

The 70's: Lose The Leisure Suit

"Retro: A Candid Look At Our Past" Part 2 of 6
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Lessons For Losing Your Leisure Suit

I) WE BECOME WHAT WE'RE COMMITTED TO.

"The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied."
(Proverbs 13:4, NIV)

II) COMMITMENT ALWAYS NEEDS A FUEL.

The Three Most Common

1) PASSION: What we do really energizes us.

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom."
(Ecclesiastes 9:10, NIV)

2) PERSEVERANCE: We find the tenacity to finish.

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 3:12-14, NIV)

3) PURPOSE: We know what we do will last for God.

"Give yourselves completely to God— every part of you... you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes." (Romans 6:13b, LB)

III) WE MUST CHOOSE COMMITMENTS CAREFULLY.

Four Choices To Focus On

1) Choose to BE TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE.

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly."
(Romans 12:6a, NASB)

2) Choose to PREOCCUPY YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE.

"Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."
(Ephesians 5:25b-27, NIV)

3) Choose to FOCUS ON YOUR FAMILY.

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel." (Psalm 128, NIV)

4) Choose to GIVE TOTAL DEVOTION TO GOD.

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
(Joshua 24:14-15, NIV)